

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for controlling a radiation source, at least one radiation source illuminating an illumination range,

wherein

- at least one sensor monitors at least part of the illumination range of the radiation source for the presence of at least one object, the sensor generating sensor signals as a function of the at least one object present,
- the radiation source being switched off and/or its radiation intensity being reduced as a function of the sensor signals.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1,

wherein the radiation source is a headlight emitting light at least in the near infrared wavelength range.

3. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,

wherein at least one ultrasound sensor and/or at least one radar sensor, which operates preferably in the wavelength range of 24 GHz and/or 77 GHz and/or at least one LIDAR sensor and/or at least one video sensor generates the sensor signals.

4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,

wherein the radiation source is de-activated if the distance to the recognized object is less than a limiting value.

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,

wherein the radiation intensity of the radiation source is regulated as a function of the sensor signals.

6. The method as recited in Claim 5,

wherein the intensity is approximately proportional to the approach to an object and/or to the distance to an object.

7. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the approach to an object is determined from the sensor signal, and the radiation source is switched off or regulated as a function of the approach to the object.
8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein a warning is issued for the at least one object present by an acoustic and/or visual warning signal.
9. A device for controlling a radiation source, the radiation source illuminating an illumination range, characterized by
- at least one sensor, the sensor being configured in such a way that the sensor monitors at least part of the illumination range of the radiation source for the presence of at least one object, the sensor generating sensor signals as a function of the at least one object present,
  - at least one processing unit which switches off the radiation source and/or reduces its intensity as a function of the sensor signals.
10. Use of the device as recited in Claim 9 in a system, in particular in a night vision system in a motor vehicle.